

Dear Commissioners:

Stop hidden phone fees so I can truly compare prices of phone services. I support the petition filed by the National Association of State Utility Consumer Advocates and endorsed by other consumer advocacy organizations. CG Docket No. 04-208, Petition for Declaratory Ruling Regarding Truth-In-Billing and Billing Format, is long overdue.

Phone bills should be truthful and easy to understand. WE USED TO GET LONG DISTANCE. NOW I HAVE A CALLING CARD- MCI. I ADD \$50 DOLLARS EVERY THREE MONTHS( ABOUT \$12.50EA. MO.) ADDS UP TO ABOUT 2.9 CENTS A MINUTE. VERIZON IS OUR LOCAL CARRIER. MY BILL RUNS ABOUT \$26. UNLIMITED. I TRIED TO GO TO SBC FOR LOCAL SERVICE. THEY REFUSED US SERVICE BECAUSE WE ARE IN VERIZON'S AREA. WHAT EVER HAPPENED TO EQUAL OPPORTUNITY & COMPETITIVE PRICES. NOT HAPPENING IN CALIFORNIA!!!! THEY HAVE US BY THE ----- AND KNOW THAT WE CANNOT DO A DAMN THING ABOUT IT. THE FCC??? THEY GET PAYOFFS FROM THESE CO'S. WHERE'S PRESIDENT BUSH???? HE IS IN FAVOR OF THE BUSINESSMAN AND TO HELL WITH THE PUBLIC. HE COULDN'T EVEN PULL HIS OIL COMPANY OUT OF BANKRUPTCY. LOOK WHAT HE'S DOING TO OUR COUNTRY!!!!!! WE REALLY NEED HELP FROM SOMEONE WHO CARES FOR THE GENERAL PUBLIC. NOT ALL OF US CAN AFFORD THE INCREASES IN BILLS.

Because this practice is tolerated by the FCC, long distance and wireless phone companies are able to hide the true cost of service. These add-ons make the advertised price of service significantly less than the amount of the check I have to write each month to pay the bill. Competition will not work if consumers cannot accurately compare prices when shopping for service.

Many states are stepping up to address this problem. They should be allowed to proceed. However, the FCC shouldn't shirk its responsibility, nor limit states from doing more.

The FCC should immediately grant the NASUCA petition to investigate billing practices, and prohibit phone and wireless companies from imposing separate monthly fees, line items or surcharges unless expressly mandated by law or the charge is expressly authorized by a governmental authority.